

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A magnetic transferring method comprising the steps of:

bringing a master medium and a slave medium into close contact with each other, the master medium bearing information signals, and the slave medium including a lubricating layer formed on a surface of a recording plane during use;

applying a transfer magnetic field; and

performing magnetic transfer,

wherein the magnetic transfer is performed by bringing the slave medium and the master medium into close contact before formation of the lubricating layer.

2. (Original) A magnetic transferring method comprising the steps of:

bringing a master medium and a slave medium into close contact with each other, the master medium bearing information signals;

applying a transfer magnetic field; and

performing magnetic transfer,

wherein a recording plane of the slave medium and an information bearing plane of the master medium are brought into close contact ~~through liquid~~ with each other, with liquid in an amount of 2 to 20 mg/m² intervening therebetween.

3. (Original) The magnetic transferring method according to claim 2, wherein said liquid has lubricity.

4. (Original) The magnetic transferring method according to claim 2, wherein said liquid having lubricity is coated on the recording plane of the slave medium.

5. (Original) The magnetic transferring method according to claim 3, wherein said liquid having lubricity is coated on the recording plane of the slave medium.

6. (Original) The magnetic transferring method according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein after the magnetic transfer, the close contact between the slave medium and the master medium is released while the slave medium is moved.

7. (Original) A method for cleaning a magnetic transfer master medium, used in a magnetic transferring method for magnetically transferring information from the master medium bearing the information to a slave medium, comprising the step of:

burning and removing an article stuck to a surface of the master medium before execution of magnetic transfer by using a plasma discharge under an atmosphere of pressure-reduced reactive gas.

8. (Original) An apparatus for cleaning a magnetic transfer master medium, used in a magnetic transferring method for magnetically transferring information from the master medium bearing the information to a slave medium, comprising:

- a decompression vessel for housing the master medium;
- a pressure reducing unit for reducing a pressure in said vessel;
- a discharge unit for generating a plasma discharge between an electrode in said vessel and the master medium; and

- a gas introduction unit for introducing reactive gas into said vessel,

wherein in a pressure reduced state, reactive gas is introduced into said vessel to generate a discharge, and an article stuck to a surface of the master medium is burned and removed by a plasma discharge.